WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for electronically cataloging an object appearing in a photographic image, comprising:

receiving a unique identification code from a remote generator that generates the unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

storing image data for the image in association with the unique identification code;

accessing the stored image data via the unique identification code; and

outputting the image data.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the generator is a transponder.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the transponder is located on the object in the image.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein reception of the transmitted unique identification code is via a receiver, wherein the receiver is a component of a camera that captures the image.

5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the receiver receives the unique identification code via a wireless interface.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein encoding of the unique identification code is accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the image data is stored in a database system on a computer-readable storage medium.

8. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of verifying that the unique identification code corresponds to the possessor of the transponder.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein accessing and outputting the image data is performed from a location remote from the computer-readable storage medium.

10. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said accessing is a selective authorized access, wherein the unique identification code associated with the image allows only authorized access to the image.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by display.

12. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by print.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the image is printed at a remote location from the computer-readable storage medium.

14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the image is printed in a variety of sizes and formats.

15. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said outputting step comprises outputting by storage onto a removable computer readable memory medium.

16. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the image contains multiple objects.

17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein each object has a unique identification code.

18. A system for electronically cataloging an object appearing in a photographic image, comprising:

a generator that generates and transmits a unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

a storage device that stores image data for the image in association with the unique identification code;

access means for accessing the stored image data via the unique identification code; and

output means for outputting the image data.

19. A system according to Claim 18, wherein the generator is a transponder.

20. A system according to Claim 19, wherein the transponder is located on the object in the image.

21. A system according to Claim 18, wherein the receiver is a component of a camera that captures the image.

22. A system according to Claim 21, wherein the receiver receives the unique identification code via a wireless interface.

23. A system according to Claim 18, wherein encoding of the unique identification code is accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

24. A system according to Claim 18, wherein the image data is stored in a database system on a computer-readable storage medium.

25. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising verification means for verifying

that the unique identification code corresponds to the possessor of the transponder.

26. A system according to Claim 18, wherein accessing and outputting the image data is performed from a location remote from the computer-readable storage medium.

27. A system according to Claim 26, wherein said accessing is a selective authorized access, wherein the unique identification code associated with the image allows only authorized access to the image.

28. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by display.

29. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by print.

30. A system according to Claim 29, wherein the image is printed at a remote location from the computer-readable storage medium.

31. A system according to Claim 29, wherein the image is printed in a variety of sizes and formats.

32. A system according to Claim 18, wherein said outputting means outputs by storage onto a removable computer readable memory medium.

33.   A system according to Claim 18, wherein the image contains multiple objects.

34.   A system according to Claim 33, wherein each object has a unique identification

5   code.

35.   An apparatus for electronically cataloging an object appearing in a photographic image, comprising:

10   a receiver for receiving a unique identification code from a remote generator that generates the unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

15   a memory for storing executable process steps;

a processor to execute said process steps stored in said memory;

wherein said process steps include (a)

20   capturing image data for the image associated with the unique identification code, (b) storing the unique identification code in association with the captured image data, and (c) transferring the stored recorded image data with the stored unique

25   identification code to a computer-readable storage medium.

36.   An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the receiver receives the unique

30   identification code via a wireless interface.

37.   An apparatus according to Claim 35,
wherein storing of the unique identification code is
accomplished using the DIG35 standard.

38.   An apparatus according to Claim 35,
wherein transfer of the image to a computer-readable
storage medium is performed via a wired or wireless
interface.

39.   An apparatus according to Claim 35,
wherein the image contains multiple objects.

40.   An apparatus according to Claim 39,
wherein each object has a unique identification
code.

41.   A method for automatically storing
information identifying an object in an image,
comprising the steps of:
        receiving a unique identification code
from a remote generator that generates the unique
identification code, the unique identification code
being unique to the object in the image;
        capturing image data for the image;
        generating meta-data for the image data,
the meta-data including the unique identification
code; and
        storing the meta-data together with the
captured image data into a storage medium.

42.   A method according to Claim 41, wherein the meta-data is stored in a standard format of data for digital photographic image.

43.   A method according to Claim 42, wherein the meta-data is stored in a DIG35 standard format of data.

44.   A method according to Claim 41, wherein said generating step includes the step of retrieving information corresponding to the unique identification code.

45.   A method according to Claim 44, further comprising the step of verifying the retrieved information.

46.   A method according to Claim 41, further comprising the step of accessing and displaying the image stored in the storage medium via a user interface.

47.   A method according to Claim 41, wherein the image contains multiple objects.

48.   A method according to Claim 47, wherein each object has a unique identification code.

49. A system for automatic generation of information which identifies an object in an image, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a unique identification code from a remote generator that generates the unique identification code, the unique identification code being unique to the object in the image;

capturing means for capturing image data for the image;

generating means for generating meta-data for the image data, the meta-data including the unique identification code; and

storing means for storing the meta-data together with the captured image data into a storage medium.

50. A system according to Claim 49, wherein the meta-data is stored in a standard format of data for digital photographic image.

51. A system according to Claim 49, wherein the meta-data is stored in a DIG35 standard format of data.

52. A method according to Claim 51, wherein said generating step includes the step of retrieving information corresponding to the unique identification code.

53. A system according to Claim 52, further comprising verification means for verifying the retrieved information.

54. A system according to Claim 49, further comprising accessing means and displaying means for accessing and displaying, respectively, the image data stored in the storage medium via a user interface.

55. A system according to Claim 49, wherein the image contains multiple objects.

56. A system according to Claim 55, wherein each object has a unique identification code.